Record of Decision

RED HILL PLANNING AREA

Sequoia National Forest
Tule River Ranger District

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific Southwest
Region

RECORD OF DECISION

RED HILL PLANNING AREA

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

TULE RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

I. INTRODUCTION

The Red Hill Planning Area Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) describes proposed timber harvesting for the management of the Red Hill area on the Tule River District of the Sequoia National Forest. The Red Hill Planning Area is located in Township 21 South and Range 31 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M) within the Slate and Coy Compartments (see Maps 1-1, Vicinity Map; 1-2, Location Map; and 1-3, Project Area Map in the FEIS). The Red Hill FEIS is proposing one timber sale in the compartments, the Red Hill Helicopter Timber Sale. The Red Hill FEIS documents the analysis performed by an Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) to determine the scope and effects of implementation of this timber sale.

The planning area consists of variable size and age classes of timber, stocking densities and species composition. There is heavy decadence, pockets of dwarf mistletoe infection and stagnation throughout the area. The Red Hill Planning Area includes suitable and unsuitable spotted owl habitat. The boundaries of the area analyzed vary by resource. For instance, analysis of the effects upon watershed resources includes the entire watershed, not just the portion within the Red Hill Planning Area. The analysis of the effects on wildlife resources was a 37,758 acre area due to the large home ranges associated with many of the species considered.

Stand prescriptions are not based primarily on the amount of mature timber available, but on the activities that would promote the health of the individual stands and provide for the best wildlife habitat. The stand prescriptions are sanitation/salvage in the areas of unsuitable spotted owl habitat and salvage in the areas of suitable spotted owl habitat. Sanitation harvest is an initial entry step to uneven-aged management through the removal of trees that are dead or have a high risk of dying through disease, insect and/or other natural causes within the decade. Uneven-aged management is a sustainable yield scheme of land management. Harvesting by salvage prescription (trees that are dead or have a high probability of dying within the next 6 months) does not significantly alter the suitable spoted owl habitat if sufficient snag levels are maintained.

The Red Hill FEIS presents complete summary analyses for each resource. Working papers containing the complete technical analysis for each resource are available at the Tule River Ranger District Office, Sequoia National Forest, 32588 Highway 190, Springville, CA 93265.

The preparation of an environmental impact statement disclosing a proposed action and alternatives to it is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), NEPA

regulations (40 CFR 1500.00). The Red Hill FEIS has been prepared in the format established in CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.10).

The Red Hill FEIS has been prepared under the direction of the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) supplemented by the 1990 Mediated Settlement Agreement. The goal of the Forest Plan and Mediated Settlement Agreement is to develop a fully integrated mix of management practices which provide for use and protection of Forest resources, satisfying guiding legislation, and addressing local, regional and national issues.

The Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 authorizes the use of timber as a part of the intent to provide for the "regular periodic output of the various renewable resources" found on National Forest lands. The Sequoia National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan (Forest Plan, approved 2/25/88) was developed to direct the management of the Sequoia National Forest according to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the National Forest Management Act of 1976. This plan provides for a mix of activities that allow use and protection of resources while addressing local, regional and national interests. As part of this planning effort an assessment of the timber resources on the Forest was completed, and it was determined that the Sequoia National Forest can help fulfill a societal need for wood fiber through the sale of National Forest timber.

In July of 1990, a Mediated Settlement Agreement for the Sequoia National Forest Plan was reached between the Forest Service (Regional Forester) and the parties that had administratively appealed the decision to adopt the Forest Plan. This Mediated Settlement Agreement modifies some of the direction stated in the Forest Plan.

According to the Forest Plan, the project area for the proposed Red Hill Planning Area is to be managed for sawtimber production, wildlife habitat, dispersed recreation and developed recreation in the conifer forest. (Forest Plan, pages 4-66 to 4-90). Thus, the Red Hill FEIS is tiered to the management prescriptions, standards and guidelines of the Forest Plan, and is in compliance with the Mediated Settlement Agreement. The purpose of the Red Hill FEIS is to consider timber and other resource management needs and opportunities for the Red Hill Planning Area.

II. DECISION AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

It is my decision to select Alternative 3 for implementation of the Red Hill Planning Area. This Record of Decision documents my selection of this Alternative and discloses the reasons for my decision.

Alternative 3 strikes a good balance between wildlife protection and timber harvest, economics and released roadless area protection. The timber harvest operation also provides the means and the framework for improving forest health and thus wildlife habitat. This alternative consists of harvesting approximately 12.0 million board feet (MMBF) from 2,000 acres using a helicopter harvest system. This alternative harvests only salvage trees in 900 acres of suitable spotted owl habitat and sanitation and salvage trees in 1,100 acres of unsuitable spotted owl habitat. About 0.4 miles of new, permanent roads will be built. Approximately 1.4 miles of existing road will require reconstruction for permanent use. These roads will provide access into the area in order to accomplish the timber harvesting and fuels management, as well as future access for wildlife, timber, and watershed projects.

Slash created by the logging operation will be treated to reduce fuel loading, to an acceptable level for fire protection. At least 132 cubic feet, or the equivalent of three logs 20 inches in diameter and 20 feet in length, of well-dispersed down logs would be left per acre, when available, in harvested areas for long-term soil productivity and to meet wildlife habitat requirements. Utilization, chipping or hauling of additional cull logs at the landing will be encouraged. An average of 1.5 snags per acre would also be left for snag dependent

species in unsuitable spotted owl habitat. In suitable spotted owl habitat an average of 3 to 4 snags per acre would be left.

Selection of Alternative 3 includes implementation of the mitigation measures or Management Requirements and Constraints (MRC's), which incorporate monitoring measures, as described in the FEIS, Appendix D. Project monitoring will be integrated with Forest Plan monitoring to maximize the efficiency of data collection and interpretation.

RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE 3

The Red Hill Planning Area FEIS has, to my satisfaction, explored a reasonable range of alternatives and disclosed the direct, indirect and cumulative environmental effects of each. In addition, these alternatives are consistent with and tiered to the Forest Plan and are consistent with the Mediated Settlement Agreement. From this array of alternatives, I selected Alternative 3 because, in my judgement, it best meets the overall project goal of implementing Forest Plan direction for timber, wildlife and recreation management in this part of the Sequoia National Forest. Alternative 3 strikes the best balance between wildlife habitat protection and enhancement, roadless integrity and timber values.

Pursuant to the overall project goal, the site specific project objectives derived from project issues are as follows:

1. Maintain the integrity of the released Slate Mountain roadless area.

2. Maintain future habitat options for the California spotted owl. Protect Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHA's).

3. Provide a cost effective sale and contribute wood fiber to the market.

4. Identify and fund watershed improvements and needs.

5. Improve the health, vigor and growth of timber stands in the Red Hill Planning Area.

I will discuss how Alternative 3 meets each of these objectives:

Using a helicopter harvest system maintains the integrity of the released roadless area by not building new roads and thus not precluding the future designation of the area as wilderness. The prescription to remove approximately 10 trees per acre leaves stands essentially intact and results in little change to the ecosystem. By not building roads the remoteness, apparent naturalness, opportunity for solitude and opportunity for a primitive recreation experience are not compromised in the long term. The helicopter operation will cause some short term disturbance to recreationists and wildlife.

Alternative 3 emphasizes the protection and maintenance of California spotted owl habitat. Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHA's), which are outside of the planning area, have been removed from consideration for management activities through the Forest Plan. There is suitable owl habitat outside of SOHA's characterized by multi-storied stand with 50% and greater crown closure, half the canopy made up of dominant, overstory trees and the rest made up of trees 30 feet or taller. Due to the drought some trees have died in the suitable habitat. Salvage harvesting of dead trees in suitable owl habitat will not significantly alter suitable owl habitat, when mitigations are applied, according to the Regional Forester's memo dated July 24, 1991 (USDA, 1991). These mitigations include maintaining 3 to 4 snags per acre, protecting remaining green trees from damage during harvest operations and a seasonal harvest restriction when reproductive owls are known to occur.

The balance among the resources of timber, wildlife, and released roadless reduces the economic return of Alternative 3. The alternative still proves to be economically acceptable and desirable, having a positive value. The benefit to the Forest Service, which includes base rates, slash deposits and bid premium is estimated at $1,035,000. The Forest Service costs which include road pre-construction, road construction, sale preparation, sale administration and slash burning is estimated at $339,000. This equals an estimated net of $696,000 which would be paid to the U.S. Treasury in the form of timber sale revenues. The United States Treasury will return to the counties 25% of the base rates and bid premium which is estimated at $960,000. This equals approximately $240,000 that would paid to the counties in which the Forest is located. This payment is made in lieu of taxes and is used by local governments to fund schools and road maintenance. In addition approximately $800,000 in Federal Income Tax would be generated as a result of this alternative.

Alternative 3 will promote timber health, vigor and growth, while reducing the impact of current bark beetle infestations. The planning area consists of variable size and age classes, stocking densities and species composition. There is heavy decadence, pockets of dwarf mistletoe infection and stagnation through out the area. Stand prescriptions are not based primarily on the amount of mature timber available, but activities that would promote the health of the individual stands and provide for the best wildlife habitat.

I selected Alternative 3 in light of the following considerations as well:

1. The Management Requirements and Constraints (FEIS, Appendix D), Best Management Practices (FEIS, Appendix E) and Riparian Standards and Guidelines (FEIS, Appendix C) provide for protection of air quality, cultural resources, private use lands and recreational sites, sensitive plants and wildlife species, visual resources and watersheds. All practicable means to avoid and minimize environmental harm have been adopted in selected Alternative 3.

   In the unlikely event that any of the activities to reduce environmental impacts do not work, a monitoring plan has been incorporated in the Management Requirements and Constraints (FEIS, Appendix D) to alert Forest managers to any problems. A major effort will be undertaken to monitor management activities, and I am confident any unforeseen problems will be quickly identified and resolved.

2. Alternative 3 not only strikes the best balance among timber, wildlife, economics and released roadless values but also, like Alternative 2, allows the Sequoia National Forest to do its part to supply U.S. consumers with wood and wood products and to do it in the spirit of what I call responsible consumerism. All of the acreage managed in this alternative would be treated with the salvage or salvage/sanitation stand prescription, significantly reducing impacts to other resource values.

3. All potential condor roost trees will be marked and designated for protection to ensure that management activities would not adversely impact condors. Furbearers were surveyed with a camera monitoring technique in 1991 in the Red Hill Planning Area and the surrounding area. Results from the survey detected two fishers near the planning area boundary and one marten adjacent to the planning area boundary. Protection of furbearer habitat will be accomplished by retaining snags for nesting and denning sites, retaining forested cover on ridges and drainages, and implementing a seasonal restriction during the breeding season for nests or dens in an active reproductive status. All seeps, springs, riparian areas, and water developments would be exempt from management activities and are to be managed according to the Sequoia National Forest's Riparian Standards and Guidelines.

III. ALTERNATIVES

RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

Formulation of Alternatives

In response to project objectives and issues, the ID Team developed a set of alternative management strategies. The development of alternatives was guided by the Forest Plan as modified by the Mediated Settlement Agreement.

The ID Team considered many individual ideas for meeting objectives and responding to the issues. Ideas that appeared to have some degree of mutual compatibility were then combined in the development of alternatives. The alternatives analyzed vary by objective and therefore in the number of acres treated and the amount of timber harvested.

Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study

The ID Team considered a wide range of alternatives to meet the objectives of the project. Some of the alternatives considered were studied in detail and others were eliminated from detailed study. The ID Team completed detailed studies on the alternatives they felt best met the project objectives, addressed the issues and could be implemented effectively. The alternatives eliminated from detailed study and the rationale for their elimination are discussed below.

Treat areas that require the use of herbicides for reforestation - Regeneration harvest methods within the planning area that would require the use of herbicides to assure successful reforestation were considered, but eliminated from detailed study in this analysis. Steep slopes, concern for soil integrity, and the particular species present were involved in this judgment. The use of herbicides is not within the scope of this analysis.

An alternative which incorporated clearcuts on helicopter ground was considered. When considering the visual quality constraints and the cost of treating the slash and regenerating these areas on helicopter ground, this alternative was eliminated from detailed study.

An alternative which was designed to meet the Forest Land Management Plan was eliminated from futher detailed study when the FLMP was supplemented by the Mediated Settlement Agreement signed July 10, 1990.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

There were three alternatives considered in detail, one no action alternative and two action alternatives. Alternative 1 is the No Action alternative; Alternatives 2 and 3 are the two action alternatives considered in detail.

Features Common to All Alternatives (including No Action):

1. Description of Analysis Area - The project area that was considered for the Red Hill Planning Area consists of major portions of the Slate and Coy Compartment in the Tule River Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. the Red Hill FEIS analyzes approximately 2,000 acres of capable, available and suitable (CAS) timber strata in the Slate and Coy Compartments.

2. Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHAs) - The Belknap SOHA, the Deadman SOHA and the Wheel Meadow SOHA are within the wildlife analysis area, but outside of the planning area. These each consist of

approximately 1,650 acres each and were not considered for any type of management activity related to the proposed sale.

3. Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) Projects - An integral component of managing the affected watersheds and subwatersheds in the analysis area is the identification and implementation of watershed improvement needs projects. These projects contribute toward the restoration of the watersheds through the repair and rehabilitation of degraded watershed conditions that are present.

   WIN projects have been identified in the analysis area and are discussed in the Watershed Section of Chapter 4.

Features Common to All Action Alternatives (Alternatives 2 and 3):

1. Lands Available for Management - Management activities are proposed on lands where actions are expected to be effective and efficient in meeting the project objectives. Within the analysis area of 2,244 acres, management activities are proposed on a maximum of 2,000 acres of conifer forest. Two hundred and forty-four acres of conifer forest are in an unregulated land classification. This recommendation is consistent with direction in the Forest Plan and Mediated Settlement Agreement.

2. Stand Prescriptions - Harvest prescriptions proposed by the action alternatives are based on silvicultural, economic, and multiple resource considerations. The prescriptions described here would be applied to lands suitable for timber production. The stand prescriptions selected under each alternative, as well as the acreage and estimated volume for them, are listed in Chapter 2 of the FEIS.

   In developing the alternatives, the selection of the appropriate stand prescription for each stand needed to be developed so that the stand characteristics, in conjunction with the management emphasis from the Forest Plan, would be designed to best meet management objectives. The Forest-wide standards and guidelines direct that both even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural prescriptions are to be used to meet project objectives.

3. Sensitive Plant Habitat - Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive plants are managed according to FSM 2600 (Wildlife, Fish and Sensitive Plant Habitat Management) and FSH 2609.25 (Threatened and Endangered Plants Program Handbook). Field surveys and checks of past records indicate that there are no State or Federal listed plant species within the planning area. There is a population of Twisselman's Buckwheat and a population of purple mountain-parsley (Region 5, Sensitive Plant Species) in the planning area that has been flagged and will be protected during harvest operations.

4. Cultural Resources - Surveys for historic and prehistoric cultural properties have been conducted in the planning area. All identified historic and prehistoric cultural properties would be protected by exclusion from timber harvest operations and road building activities. If, for some overriding consideration, a site cannot be excluded from impact, the site would be evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. If the property is determined eligible, the project's effects on the property would be determined and compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act completed to mitigate the adverse effects. Subsequent mitigation measures would be formulated that would include, but not be limited to, site stabilization, subsurface testing, data recovery, and continued protection requirements. Any identified religious or sacred site will be protected in accordance with the Native American Religious Freedom Act(P.L. 95-341).

5. Riparian Area Prescriptions - Riparian areas are protected by Streamside Management Zones (SMZs), which are defined according to the "Sequoia National Forest Riparian Standards and Guidelines," 1990.

6. All condor roost trees within the designated potential roost areas will be marked and designated for protection to ensure that management activities would not adversely impact condors.

7. Habitat for furbearers is protected by retaining snags for nesting and denning sites, retaining forested cover on ridges and drainages. To protect furbearers in an active reproductive status, a seasonal restriction would be implemented during the breeding season.

ALTERNATIVE 1 - THE ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

This is the "No Action" alternative. Current, ongoing management activities would continue. Current activities within the analysis area include: woodcutting; livestock grazing; recreational use of roads and trails; maintenance of existing facilities such as roads; and fire suppression. Timber harvesting activities would not be implemented. Alternative 1 meets both released roadless area issues and maintains future habitat options for the California spotted owl.

I judge Alternative 1 to be the environmentally preferred alternative. In this context, environmentally preferred means the alternative that is the most protective of the biological resources of the forest. I consider Alternative 1 to be environmentally preferred because it provides the least amount of harvest-related ground disturbance and maintains potential spotted owl habitat. However, there would continue to be tree mortality due to insect activity with no means of improving the health and vigor of stands throughout the Planning Area. The fire risk in the Red Hill Planning Area would be high in the future due to accumulations of dead and dying trees. It is estimated that over the next ten years accumulations of dead and dying trees would increase the fuel loading to 60 to 80 tons per acre.

ALTERNATIVE 2

This alternative would emphasize protection of all suitable spotted owl habitat. Harvest would occur only on the 1,100 acres of unsuitable spotted owl habitat providing approximately 6.0 MMBF of sawtimber. 0.2 miles of new temporary roads would be constructed and 0.2 miles of an existing roadbed would be reconstructed to access the three helicopter landings. Alternative 2 meets the released roadless area issue, maintains the suitable spotted owl habitat for future options and partially promotes stand health and vigor. This alternative is within Forest Plan standards and guidelines and the provisions of the Mediated Settlement Agreement.

ALTERNATIVE 3 - THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

This alternative is designed to meet the issue of implementing management techniques in unmanaged stands and provide sustainable yield. It emphasizes timber harvesting but does so well within Forest Plan standards and guidelines and the provisions of the Mediated Settlement Agreement. Helicopter harvest systems would be used with salvage/sanitation silvicultural prescriptions. Approximately 12.0 MMBF of timber would be harvested from 2,000 acres, 0.4 miles of new permanent roads would be constructed and 1.3 miles of existing roads would be reconstructed. Alternative 3 meets the released roadless area issue and the economic issue. Since only dead trees are being harvested from suitable spotted owl habitat, it maintains the suitable spotted owl habitat for future options.

IV. ISSUES AND THEIR RESOLUTION

The following are brief descriptions of the five major issues that were developed during the scoping process and summaries of how those issues are resolved by the Selected Alternative. (Refer to the FEIS, Chapter 1, for more discussion of the issues, and Chapter II for a comparison of the alternatives.)

ISSUE -Released Roadless Character. The integrity of the released Slate Mountain roadless area.

RESOLUTION - Using a helicopter harvest system maintains the integrity of the released roadless area by not building new roads and thus not precluding the future designation of the area as wilderness. The prescription to remove approximately 10 trees per acre leaves stands essentially intact and results in little change to the ecosystem. By not building roads, the remoteness, apparent naturalness, opportunity for solitude and a primitive recreation experience are not compromised in the long term. The helicopter operation will cause some short term disturbance to recreationists and wildlife.

ISSUE -California Spotted Owl Habitat. Protect all California spotted owl habitat including Spotted Owl Habitat Areas.

RESOLUTION -Alternative 3 emphasizes the protection and maintenance of suitable California spotted owl habitat. Spotted Owl Habitat Areas (SOHA's), which are outside of the planning area, have been removed from consideration for management activities. Salvage harvesting in suitable owl habitat will not significantly alter suitable owl habitat, when mitigations are applied, according to the Regional Forester's memo dated July 24, 1991 (USDA, 1991). These mitigations include maintaining 3 to 4 snags per acre, protecting remaining green trees from damage during harvest operations and a seasonal harvest restriction when reproductive owls are known to occur.

ISSUE - Economics. All activities should be economically viable.

RESOLUTION - Alternative 3 will provide approximately 12 MMBF of timber for the market. The gross revenues from the sale of this timber are estimated to be $1,035,000. The Forest Service costs are estimated at $339,000. This equals an estimated net of $696,000 which would be paid to the U.S. Treasury. The United States Treasury will return to the counties 25% of the base rates and bid premium which is estimated at $960,000. The counties will be paid an estimated $240,000 which will be used to assist in funding schools and road maintenance.

ISSUE - Land Management. Implement management techniques within the unmanaged stands.

RESOLUTION -Alternative 3 will maintain timber health, vigor and growth, while reducing the impact of current bark beetle infestations. The sale area consists of variable size and age classes, stocking densities and species composition. There is heavy decadence, pockets of dwarf mistletoe infection and stagnation throughout the area. Stand prescriptions are not based primarily on the amount of mature timber available, but activities that would promote the health of the individual stands and provide for the best wildlife habitat.

ISSUE - Sustainable Yield. Provide sustainable yield from total available land base within the planning area. Sustainable yield of timber means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or periodic output of timber without impairment of the productivity of the land.

RESOLUTION - Sanitation harvesting is the removal of trees that are dead or have a high risk of dying through disease, insect and/or other natural causes within the decade. Sanitation harvest is an initial entry step to uneven-aged management. Uneven-aged management is a sustainable yield scheme of land management. Harvesting by sanitation and salvage (trees that are dead or have a high probability of dying within the next 6 months) prescriptions on 2,000 acres provides for total management of the available land base. Alternative 3 will harvest 22% (approximately 12 MMBF) of the mature, commercial size timber in the planning area available for harvest this decade. This alternative is below sustainable yield.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

February 4, 1992

An announcement of the publication and availability of the Red Hill Planning Area DEIS was sent to 54 local media including organization newsletters, Hispanic newspapers, daily and weekly newspapers, radio, and television.

February 14, 1992

Announcement of the availability of Red Hill Planning Area DEIS was published in the Federal Register.

March 14, 1992

An Open House for the public to discuss the Red Hill Planning Area DEIS took place at the Tule River District Office from 1:00-3:00 p.m. An attendance of 14 persons, including two news reporters, talked person-to-person with District Staff about their concerns. A press release about the event was mailed to 54 local media February 26th. A followup ad ran in the Porterville Recorder, March 11th and Tule River Times, March 2nd. Posters announcing the Open House were posted at Pierpoint, Ponderosa, Springville, and Office kiosk February 26th.

March 30, 1992

All comments to the Red Hill Planning Area DEIS were to be postmarked no later than this date. There were four lettters that were written for the sole purpose of asking for an extension of the comment period. This request was denied since public scoping has been ongoing since 1987. Three responses received post-marked March 31, 1992, were read for significant statements not addressed in other letters. There were no new issues raised in these late letters.

The 89 respondent's comments were analyzed by a team of five persons on the District Staff. There was a total of 464 comments. Respondents included 72 individuals, 1 state agency, 2 federal agencies, 5 conservation/environmental groups, 1 Chamber of Commerce, 3 commodity interests, 1 horseback riding group, 1 motorized recreation group, 1 tribal government, and 1 fishing group. The respondents residing in Tulare, Fresno, and Kern Counties--63, other areas of California--22, and out of state--4. Each of these comments was responded to and documented in the FEIS.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

The project proposes one helicopter timber sale on approximately 2,000 acres, with an approximate harvest of about 12 million board feet (MMBF) of timber. Approximately 0.4 miles of new, permanent road construction and 1.4 miles of reconstruction will be necessary to access the three helicopter landings and haul the timber from the area. Specific locations and details are available from the Tule River Ranger District Office.

Implementation will be as follows:

Red Hill Helicopter Timber Sale

Sale Layout	June 1992
Mark and Cruise Timber	July 1992
Prepare Contract and Appraisal	August 1992

Advertise Timber Sale Contract	September 1992
Bid on Timber Sale Contract	October 1992
Award Timber Sale Contract	October 1992
Start Road Construction	Fall 1992
Complete All Project Road Construction	Summer 1993
Complete Hauling Logs	1994
Monitoring and Evaluation	Ongoing

All dates in the implementation schedule are subject to change.

If you would like more information on the Red Hill Planning Area or FEIS contact:

Susan Marthaller (or) Raul Contreras
Tule River Ranger District
32588 Hwy 190
Springville, CA 93265
209-539-2607

Rights To Appeal

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service Service in 36 CFR 217. To initiate an appeal, a written notice of appeal must be filed in accordance with the procedures specified in 36 CFR 217 within 45 days from the date of publication of this decision. Notices of appeal which do not meet the requirements of 36 CFR 217.9 shall be dismissed.

The FEIS is available for public review at the Tule River Ranger District Office in Springville, California, or at the Forest Supervisor's Office of the Sequoia National Forest in Porterville, California. Working papers contain detailed information used in developing the FEIS and are also available for inspection during regular business hours at the Tule River Ranger District Office. These records are incorporated by reference into the FEIS.

Gordon C Heedmen

for SANDRA H. KEY
Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
900 W. Grand Avenue
Porterville, CA 93257-2035

Date: 4/27/92

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